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(54) **Device for reading from or writing to an optical recording medium**

(57) The present invention relates to a device for reading from or writing to an optical recording medium which has at least two information carrier layers (9, 10) spaced apart from one another, as well as a light source (1, 1', 1''), an optical unit and a detection unit. The object of the present invention is to propose a device of this type which permits a plurality of information carrier layers to be read from and/or written to simultaneously using light of a single wavelength. According to the invention, a partial beam generating element (4, 1', 1''),

19) is present for this purpose, which element emits two partial beams (5, 6, 2', 2'') which differ in terms of polarization direction and propagation behaviour.

The present invention is advantageously employed in devices for reading from or writing to optical recording media such as, for example, CD, CD-ROM, DVD, laser disk or the like.

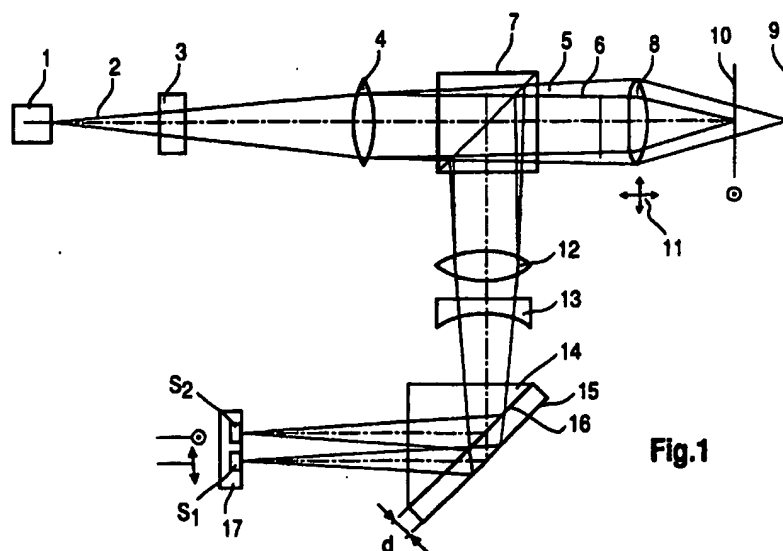


Fig.1

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 097, no. 001, 31 January 1997 & JP 08 249708 A (PIONEER ELECTRON CORP), 27 September 1996, * abstract *	1	G11B7/12
X	US 4 783 152 A (NISHIMOTO YOSHIFUMI) 8 November 1988 * the whole document *	1,2	
X	FR 2 323 160 A (THOMSON BRANDT) 1 April 1977 * claim 1; figure 3 *	1	
X	FR 2 330 027 A (THOMSON BRANDT) 27 May 1977 * claims 1-5; figures 2,4 *	1	
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 016, no. 398 (P-1408), 24 August 1992 & JP 04 132032 A (RICOH CO LTD), 6 May 1992, * abstract *	1,4	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) G11B
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 19 June 1998	Examiner Bernas, Y
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			



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